

Augustana College

Rock Island, IL

**MINUTES
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
September 19, 2013
Hanson Hall of Science 102
10:30 AM**

1. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order by Faculty Senate chair, Wendy Hilton-Morrow. Roll call was taken by Brian Katz.

Members unable to attend: David Crowe, Kelly Daniels, Paul Olsen, Jason Peters, Megan Quinn, Susan Stone, Jeff Strasser, Jim van Howe, Fred Whiteside

Members excused: Jeff Coussens, Nina Ehrlich, Kevin Geedey, Meg Gillette, Steve Hager, Farah Marklevits, Mamata Marmé, Marsha Smith, Heidi Storl, Rebecca Wee

2. **Approval of Senate Meeting Minutes**

“To approve the minutes from the September 5, 2013 Faculty Senate meeting.”

MOTION CARRIED

3. **Approval of Consent Agenda**

Motion-EPC

“To approve the following:

- **Music Education Curriculum Revisions (dated April 18, 2013)**
- **New Course: EDMU 150: Becoming a Music Educator** 1 cr. [Jaeschke]; Drop EDMU 281
- **New Course: EDMU 250: Foundations in Music Education** 1 cr. [Zemek]; Drop EDMU 280
- **New Course/LP: CLAS 328 [PH]: Classical Epic** 3 cr. [Hooker]
- **New Course/LP: GRMN/SCAN 220 [PL]: Germanic Folklore and Fairy Tales** 3 cr. [Seidlitz]
- **New Course: SCAN 211: Intermediate Swedish: From Folk Music to Pop Music** 3 cr. [Seidlitz]; Drop SCAN 202
- **New Course/LP: SCAN 241 [PA]: Scandinavian Film** 3 cr. [Seidlitz]; Drop SCAN 341
- **New Course: GRMN 319: Intermediate German: World War II** 3 cr. [Seidlitz]; Drop GRMN 306.”

MOTION CARRIED

Motion-International and Off-Campus Programs Committee

“To approve the following:

- **Proposal for Spring Term 2015 in Africa (Ghana and Tanzania)**
- **Proposal for Spring Short Term 2015 Program in Sri Lanka**
- **Proposal for Spring Short Term 2015 Program in Switzerland and German**

MOTION CARRIED

4. **Motions**

4.1 Motion-Advanced Standing & Degrees Committee

“To recommend the 2013-14 Fall Term Candidates for the degree of Bachelor of Arts, subject to completion of all degree requirements as presented.”

MOTION CARRIED

5. Reports

5.1 Update on Strategic Planning Process

Pareena Lawrence provided the latest draft of the document “Augustana 2020 Vision for the College”, the result of a seven-month-long process that addressed our proposed strategic directions and measurement for assessing our performance. The draft strategic planning document reflects three strategic directions which will be presented to the Board of Trustees. Once the three directions are endorsed by the Board, action plans will be developed using feedback from this summer’s six-campus-wide discussion sessions and the one-day campus retreat.

Proposed Strategic Direction #1 focuses on how we prepare our graduate for rewarding and productive lives after they graduate from Augustana (Career and Life).

Proposed Strategic Direction #2 centers on our current Augustana students, as it focuses on creating an integrated residential liberal arts experience that incorporates all aspects of students’ lives while they are on campus (Integrated Residential Liberal Arts).

Proposed Strategic Direction #3 focuses on future Augustana students and emphasizes affordability and access (Accessible and Affordable).

5.2 Restructuring of Foreign Languages Departments

Joe McDowell and Taddy Kalas reported that effective Fall Term 2014-2015 Dean Lawrence has decided that all modern foreign language departments will be merged into one department: Department of World Languages, Literatures and Cultures, to be chaired by Taddy Kalas. The English and Classic Departments are not included in the merger. Students will continue to major in the language itself; they will not major in World Languages, Literatures and Cultures.

6.0 Discussion of Faculty Governance Structure

The members of Faculty Senate were given a page of questions that they were asked to reflect upon prior to the 9-19-13 meeting. At the meeting the questions were asked and responses were recorded on clickers. Questions asked are below along with comments that followed the voting. Votes were not binding; rather used as a gauge to guide future conversations.

Given our shared commitment to cultivating an environment of transparent decision making, open communication, trust in our colleagues, and an engaged faculty body, how necessary for effective faculty governance are the following: (1 = least; 2 = unnecessary; 3 = necessary; 4 = essential)

1. Time/space for dialogue between faculty and administration
2. Committee size consistent with research on optimal group size for decision-making bodies
3. Coherent academic division structure
4. Similarly sized academic divisions
5. Reduced committee workload
6. Balanced representation by rank on decision-making bodies
7. Balanced representation by division/discipline on decision-making bodies

Discussion on the above questions after voting:

- Having balanced representation by rank on decision-making bodies depends upon the committee. Because Faculty Senate is different than other committees, it is important for Faculty Senate to have a balance in rank
- Answers to questions depends on the meaning of the question; difficult to discern what the question is asking.
- Are these questions getting at some of the most important issues?
- Should answer 3 be “important” rather than “necessary”?
- Question #5 should have a follow-up question asked: “How important to faculty governance is committee work?” Some work is essential for faculty governance. Just asking whether we want less does not get at the question of faculty governance.
- Faculty Welfare Committee is used as a sounding board by administration because it is a smaller governing body. If Faculty Senate was more reasonably sized, perhaps Faculty Senate could relieve the Faculty Welfare Committee of governance issues that are outside their purview. When asked why Dean Lawrence addressed certain issues in Faculty Welfare rather than Faculty Senate, Dr. Lawrence indicated that there was no precedent for her to follow when she came to Augustana. Also, because certain issues need to be dealt with in a timely manner, it is more efficient to meet with a committee that meets weekly and whose agenda is not as full as Faculty Senate’s.
- When we think about issues about representation with regards to rank or discipline, we need to think about the functions of the committee as well as the function of disciplines. For instance, representation by division would be very necessary for EPC as opposed to other committees. If there are committees or decision-making bodies that have larger kinds of policy or personnel issues, then balance by ranking might be more important. To some extent, the questions might mask the differences between what divisions are good for as opposed to what they’re not useful for.

What should the role of faculty senate be? (1 = lowest priority; 2 = low priority; 3 = medium priority; 4 = high priority; 5 = highest priority)

1. Advocate to the administration on behalf of the faculty.
2. Serve as a sounding board for administration.
3. Determine which matters should be taken to the full faculty for consideration.
4. Provide final approval of proposals for new academic programs.
5. Provide final approval of modifications of existing academic programs.
6. Provide final approval of new courses.
7. Provide final approval of candidates for graduation.
8. Confer honorary degrees.
9. Provide final approval of committee appointments.

Discussion on the above questions after voting:

- Using Faculty Senate as a sounding board sounds nice; however, few people would participate. Most would not say anything, which is not a fair way to get faculty as a whole to talk. *In response to that:* What would be a more fair approach?

- If large gatherings do happen, clickers are an effective way of getting feedback from those people who would not normally speak out loud.
- There is significant overlap with agenda items in both Faculty Senate and Department & Program Chairs meetings. How can we better utilize the Department & Program Chairs as a sounding board, since they are a smaller group? *In response to that:* The Department & Program Chairs group is not representative of different ranks. At some level, that built-in redundancy is an effective way for most faculty to hear conversations taking place. Not all committee members report and share what was discussed at committee meetings with their co-workers.
- Depending upon the size of Faculty Senate, voting sessions like these could turn out very differently.
- The faculty should be more forthright and transparent about which group administration should bring information to. Sometimes people will not feel comfortable having their division chair represent them.

Time did not allow for the final set of questions on divisional structure to be answered. The conversation will continue at the next Faculty Senate meeting.

5.0 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:28 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Koski
Office of Academic Affairs